



In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, first paragraph:

Cross-reference to related applications

This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT/FI2002/000617 filed 8 July 2002.

Field of the invention

The invention relates to a method for operating a maritime unit, intended for seafaring, such as marine traffic, offshore operations, and/or the like. The maritime unit includes a frame structure, which is provided with at least power production and/or drive assemblies for the maritime unit, and at least three legs operated by a jack mechanism, on the one hand for steadyng the maritime unit on the seabed by driving the legs from a standby position, as required by the maritime unit's shipping condition, downwards in a direction substantially vertical with respect to the frame structure and, on the other hand, for releasing the same from the seabed by driving the legs upward relative to the frame structure.

Background of the invention

Page 4, first paragraph:

Summary of the invention

It is an object of a method of the invention to provide a decisive improvement regarding the above-discussed problems, and thus to essentially raise the existing state of the art. In order to fulfil this objective, a method of the invention is principally characterized in that at least the legs of a maritime unit are operated on a so-called disk brake principle for enabling a substantially stepless drive therefor, particularly regarding the manipulation and locking thereof, the maritime unit having each of its legs provided with a brake disk system, such as one or more brake flanges or the like, extending longitudinally of the leg and, on the other hand, the maritime unit having its frame structure provided with a brake system, such as one or more brake shoe elements or the like, operable in a vertical direction by means of a jack mechanism.

Page 5, final paragraph:

~~Preferred embodiments for a method of the invention are set forth in dependent claims directed thereto.~~

Page 6, first paragraph:

The invention relates also to a maritime unit designed in accordance with the method,~~which is~~

~~defined more accurately in the independent claim directed thereto.~~

Page 6, third paragraph:

~~Preferred embodiments for a maritime or offshore unit of the invention are set forth in the dependent claims directed thereto.~~

Brief description of the drawings

Page 7, third paragraph:

The invention relates to a method for operating a maritime unit 1, intended for seafaring, such as marine traffic, offshore operations, and/or the like, ~~said the~~ maritime unit comprising a frame structure 2, which is provided with at least power production and/or drive assemblies for the maritime unit, and at least three legs 3 operated by a jack mechanism 5, on the one hand for steadyng the maritime unit 1 on the seabed by driving the legs 3 from a standby position, as required by the maritime unit's shipping condition, downwards in a direction substantially vertical with respect to the frame structure 2 and, on the other hand, for releasing the same from the seabed by driving the legs 3 upward relative to the frame structure. At least the legs 3 of the maritime unit 1 are operated on a so-called disk brake principle for enabling a substantially stepless drive therefor, particularly regarding the manipulation and locking thereof, the maritime unit having each of its legs 3 provided with a brake disk system 3a, such as one or more brake flanges 3a' or the like, extending longitudinally of the leg and, on the other hand, the maritime

unit having its frame structure 2 provided with a brake system 5a, such as one or more brake shoe elements 5a' or the like, operable in a vertical direction by means of a jack mechanism 5.

Paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8:

Detailed description of embodiments of the invention

The invention relates to a method for operating a maritime unit 1, intended for seafaring, such as marine traffic, offshore operations, and/or the like, said maritime unit comprising a frame structure 2, which is provided with at least power production and/or drive assemblies for the maritime unit, and at least three legs 3 operated by a jack mechanism 5, on the one hand for steadyng the maritime unit 1 on the seabed by driving the legs 3 from a standby position, as required by the maritime unit's shipping condition, downwards in a direction substantially vertical with respect to the frame structure 2 and, on the other hand, for releasing the same from the seabed by driving the legs 3 upward relative to the frame structure. At least the legs 3 of the maritime unit 1 are operated on a so-called disk brake principle for enabling a substantially stepless drive therefor, particularly regarding the manipulation and locking thereof, the maritime unit having each of its legs 3 provided with a brake disk system 3a, such as one or more brake flanges 3a' or the like, extending longitudinally of the leg and, on the other hand, the maritime unit having its frame structure 2 provided with a brake system 5a, such as one or more brake shoe elements 5a' or the like, operable in a vertical direction by means of a jack mechanism 5.